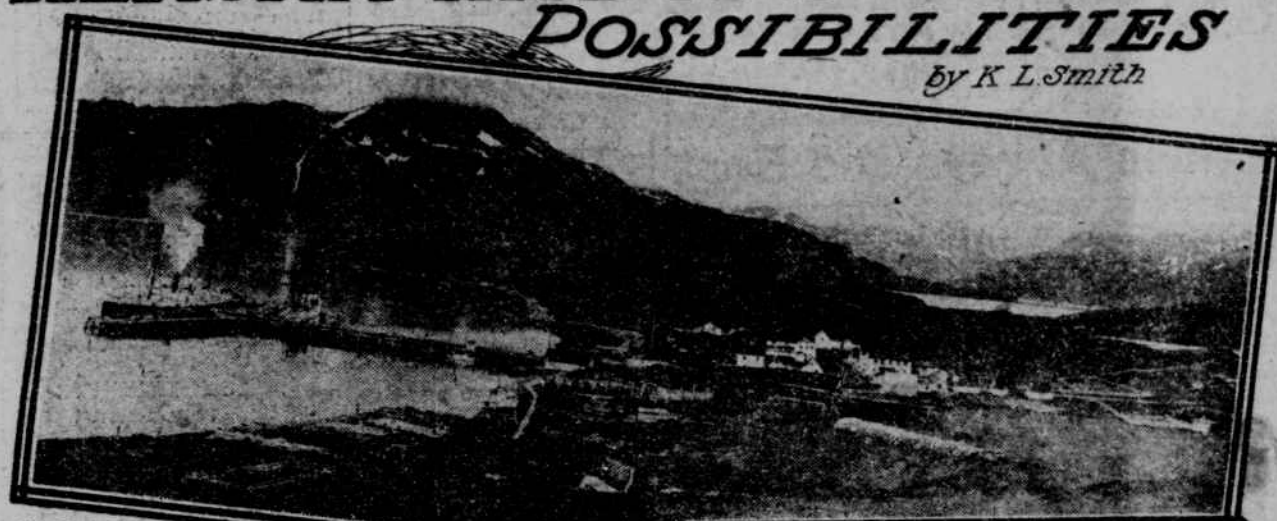


ALASKA AND ITS POSSIBILITIES

by K. L. Smith



Dutch Harbor
and Unalakleet
in the Extreme North

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

THIS December a bill will be presented to Congress to make Alaska a State. It may surprise many people that Alaska has aspirations in this direction, but for some time this country has been dissatisfied with its form of government, and felt it did not have proper understanding at Washington. If it succeeds and another star is added to the flag, the United States will create a state out of a territory that has 65,000 inhabitants, with a trade with the United States amounting to over a thousand dollars per annum for every white man, woman and child.

Most people think of Alaska as a cold, repellant country, with some rich gold mines, which are worked under great difficulty. As a matter of fact the country covers such a great area it has many climates, but its general aspect may be likened to that of Norway or Sweden. On the coast there are places where the thermometer never goes below zero in winter. There are other sections in the interior and on the northwest coast where it is extremely cold in winter, but the summers throughout are delightful. Though this season is short, the sun shines for so many hours a day that vegetation grows rapidly.

Those who associate this country merely with its gold fields know little of its resources. It exported last year nearly \$500,000 worth of fish—salmon and other kinds—dried, canned and salted. It has fur, gypsum, marble, tin, and supplies the world far more than Hawaii and Porto Rico. All this and its resources have not

been developed. People who do not know Alaska think of it as a faraway country, at which vessels touch occasionally. In reality both American and Canadian boats carry on regular service with the country. There are over thirty American vessels that call at Alaskan ports and foreign vessels frequently stop there. Last year nearly 500 vessels cleared from Alaskan coast towns.

But there is a vast interior that needs reader means of communication with the coast and these vessels. Alaska needs two things imperatively to further commercial interests and to make the country better known. These are railroads, good wagon roads and trails. With these developments will increase with leaps and bounds. At present there are only a few hundred miles of railroads besides the White Pass and Yukon, which runs from Skagway into the interior and is financed by Canadian and English capital. There are short stretches that have been constructed to facilitate shipments from mines, but the need of complete railroad systems is yearly becoming more apparent. Every governor that has been in Alaska has said that proper transportation facilities were one of the country's problems, this in spite of the fact that there are tremendous and wonderful waterways.

The Yukon, which is extensively used for transportation, is over 2,500 miles long and navigable for 2,000 miles. This immense river is 70 miles wide at its shallow mouth. Other streams are navigable for from 200 to 1,000 miles, but these do not

fill the need of railroads and trails. There are few good wagon roads, a marked contrast to the Canadian side where roads were built as soon as paying gold was discovered in any place. Alaska is calling aloud for these things for her people and protesting that people with money to back them get what the average citizen does not. Those that know say there is 18,000 miles of dredging ground in Alaska and great fields of anthracite and other coal. As for agriculture, though the season for crops is short, the many hours of sunshine each day make fair returns. Hay, potatoes, melons, squash, tomatoes, sweet corn, are raised, white cranberries, strawberries and other fruits grow wild in certain parts, where the climate is modified by the Japan current.

This wonderful region, large as all

the United States east of the Mississippi and north of Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina has vast stretches of cedar, pine and other forests, all waiting for the ax. There are elk, deer, moose and caribou and beautiful white mountain goats on the majestic mountains. The Indians have long held Mount McKinley sacred and call it "The Home of the Great Chief." But this is only one of a group like Mt. St. Elias and Mount Fairweather, all averaging over 15,000 feet. The white goats can be seen on these mountains in bands of a dozen or more and thousands of caribou are in the valleys. It is to be hoped they will remain undisturbed. When this country was purchased Secretary Seward was laughed at and decided, but now people are gradually comprehending that the Seal Islands alone have turned into our revenue much



60,000 Red Salmon A Morning Delivery at One Cannery



A Yukon River Scene



Church built by Indians at Metlakatla

more than the sum paid to Russia for the entire country.

At the time of this purchase the immense valley of the Yukon, which empties 13 times more water than the Mississippi and is in some places 20 miles wide, was inhabited by "Men of the Yukon" tribe of Indians. Today it is peopled by brave pioneers, who are building towns and settling valleys. They have started many cities, large and small, as the direct result of the working of mines. The Alaskan waterways are used extensively in summer for passenger and freight service and provisions are shipped not alone for the short summer but for the long winter also. It is probable these waterways will never be abandoned, but railroads will help in reaching places not touched by the big rivers and their tributaries.

Dawson proudly calls itself the me-

ropolis of the Upper Yukon and it is a thriving town, but its population has decreased since 1900. Surrounding mines have worked out. Fairbanks is the large town of the middle valley. It is surprisingly cosmopolitan, has nearly 4,000 people, three banks, hotels, a three-story office building, three churches, two newspapers, hospital, telephones, electric lights and many comforts. Nome is larger than either of these towns. Its population is about 10,000. It is on Bering Sea and more easy of access, and from 1900 has held its own as a sort of capital of the coast of Alaska. The entire population of Alaska is composed of whites, natives, Chinese, Japanese and a few negroes. The whites predominate and rule, and are scattered along the coast and interior. What an immense district has ready for occupancy can be realized when it is known it is 2,000 miles from Skagway on the coast to the Yukon gold field, and that it takes 12 days to go from Seattle to Nome by steamer. The Yukon country is reached by boat from Seattle to Skagway, thence by railroad where there was once a wagon road, and over passes where many a prospector in the early days lost his pack and horses. From the railroad station at White Horse a steamer connects with the Yukon River, and a good share of this journey is along a coast and through a country whose scenic grandeur is incomparable in a combination of ocean, snow clad mountains and stupendous walled channels.

The real truth is that Alaska is an empire, and it wants a larger population. If it were boomed half as much as Alberta, Saskatchewan and other Canadian provinces it would have one. The farmers from the States who are going to these districts never think of

going to Alaska, partly because its resources have not been called to their attention. Every American citizen should know the truth about Alaska and stop thinking of it as a barren inaccessible country. It is true it is our last frontier, that the summers are short and the winters are cold, but it is a coldness that is considered wonderful in its health giving properties. There is one Hot Springs with a hotel built of logs and a sanatorium that cost \$250,000. Eleven million dollars worth of gold was shipped out of Fairbanks in one year, in spite of a strike, and almost as much was shipped out of Nome. The people of the States have only a hint of the possibilities. There is not the slightest doubt but the country can support an immense population, and if it once becomes a state it will be better known. Its faraway aspect will sink into the background, and its immensity become better understood. As an instance of this, the island of Attu, which belongs to Alaska, is as far from the coast as San Francisco is from Maine. This makes, as some senators jokingly said, San Francisco the middle town of the United States.

The real Alaska is a land of constant marvels, contradictions and surprises. It cost us not a fraction of what the salmon fisheries alone are worth, and one mine has more than earned enough to compensate the outlay. It is a vast store house of undeveloped products, and it is getting more and more into communication with the United States. The first two successful wireless stations in the world were the St. Michaels and Port Safety stations. Now there are wireless stations at St. Michaels, Tanana,

(Continued on Page Twelve)

"HOME-MADE DOLLS FOR CHRISTMAS"

By Laura B. Starr



American Rag Doll



Indian Doll



Jumping Jack



Sponge Doll



Topsy



John Chinaman



Dinah and Uncle Joe



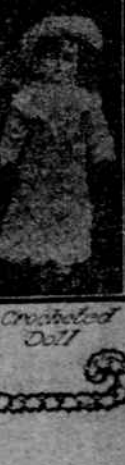
String Doll



Miss Piper



Salem Witch



Crocheted Doll

WE all know how a child will play all day with its family of china and wax dolls—dolls that open and shut their eyes, cry a real baby cry when queased, or perhaps say "papa" or "mamma" instead—and then when bedtime comes and it wants something to love and cuddle will demand her old rag doll, battered and bruised almost beyond recognition, to take to bed with her, where both sleep the sleep of happy childhood.

No machine made or manufactured doll can ever supersede the homely made article in the childish heart. It has a firm and unalterable hold upon the affections of every woman-child, for she has learned that she may use and abuse it to her heart's content and almost to its utter destruction, and yet its remnants will come up smiling every time.

There are rag dolls of every kind and description, some of them very handsome and elaborate, which will not be considered in this article, the purpose of which is to give illustrations and descriptions of several kind of home-made dolls; dolls so easy to create that the ordinary child with needle, thread, and mother's piece-bag may make for herself a whole family of "rags." The materials for the other dolls are secured with the expenditure of a little thought and a few pennies.

the fashion of the people of that land. The American doll speaks for herself. She is a pretty fair specimen, made after a pattern bought at the pattern shop and like the little girl who made her. The pattern is sewed together and stuffed with cotton and the features painted in oil.

Rolls of rag are the foundations of all the smaller dolls. Dinah and Uncle Joe are made of black wool rags rolled. First a good-sized roll is made for the body, then the top is flattened out for the head and the features put in with needle and thread. Smaller rolls are arranged for arms and legs, each flattened at the ends for hands and feet. These must be attached to the body with needle and very strong thread. The rolls may be made more flexible if a piece of bonnet or other wire is placed in the center and the rags rolled about that. The clothing is arranged and sewed on to the body.

Sponge seems a curious material for doll making, but it will be found to lend itself to the forming of queer little bodies very readily. The illustrations given are in reality pen-wipers and make excellent little Christmas gifts. A pair of sharp scissors and a coarse and a fine sponge are needed. Cut the bodies of the coarse sponge and the heads and arms of the fine one, securing the joint very firmly. Heads of different colors are used for eyes, and white ones for teeth; or small, white-headed pins may be used for teeth. Indeed, the creator will find

a dozen different materials close at hand when one comes to get to work. There are many varieties of John Chinaman, but the simplest one is made principally of peanuts. The body part is rolled rags, and the arms and legs the same, with selected peanuts for hand and feet. The right-angled double ones make excellent feet and smaller ones for the hands. Use a large single one for the head and paint the slanting eyes and features with pen and ink. Braid a few threads of coarse black cotton for the queue, and secure it and the acorn cup hat with glue or paste. The clothing should be made of dark blue cotton. For the string doll a ball of Dexter cotton, No. 8, and some bits of ribbon, with two shoe buttons, are all the material necessary. Take a piece of cardboard about five inches long and wind the cotton over it until you have

used half the ball. Thread the darning needle with a piece and run it under the cotton at the top and draw it up as tight as possible and tie securely. Now cut the strands at the bottom, leave out a few for the two braids of hair and then tie a thread around for the neck; separate a few more strands for the arms and tie the waist line with strong thread before using the ribbon. Braid the hair and tie with narrow, pink ribbon. Twist the arm strands and tie the wrists with ribbon and make the belt of the same with a big bow in front. The shoe buttons are put in with needle and thread and the features are arranged with pen and ink. The size of the doll is regulated by the height of the cardboard. Washable ribbon should be used so that the dolls may be washed as often as necessary.

Topsy "grew" down South like her predecessor. She is made of rolled rags, and her features put in with white paint. She carries bundles of matches and a bit of emery board for scratching is glued to her skirt. A home-made rag doll or a small celluloid one from the shop may serve as a foundation for the crocheted frock and hat as shown in illustration. Anyone accustomed to the use of the crochet hook will be able to judge of the number of stitches needed to fit the neck; the body is done in long crochet with a shell border. There is an infinite variety of these, some of them very artistic.

Prunes, dried apples, raisins—in fact, all sorts of dried fruit—may be used for heads of dolls. The bodies are made of rolled rags, with matches, toothpicks, hairpins or any old piece of wire for arms and legs. The

creases in the dried fruit lend themselves admirably to the making of old people; they need only a ruff of cotton or paper for a cap and to have features well marked in with pen or brush.

Salem witches with broom sticks are easily and quickly made. A bit of cotton batting, rolled into a ball and covered with a piece of flesh-colored cloth or paper and securely tied at the neck, will do for a head if one cannot easily get a piece of dried apple. Make the body of rolled rags and make the grotesque features with the pen. Small brooms can be bought at the shop or a bit of incense will make an excellent home-made one, with some sprouts drawn out of the kitchen broom. Make a petticoat of stiff cloth and a full dress skirt, so that the doll will stand with their aid. A folded plaid shawl or a red cloak will do away with the necessity of a special waist. A pointed hat of stiff black paper and a toy cat on the shoulder completes a very fetching witch.

The rag dolls of the North American Indians are often works of art. As a rule, their dolls are babies and are fastened to the curious cradle-board as the real babies are fastened. The two that came from the White Mountains of Arizona are fine examples.

See how snugly the dolls are encased in their covers of buckskin and how cleverly the rattan and buckskin are decorated with colored beads; in some cases the child's playthings are attached to the front of the hood, where they can be played with and not lost.

When the babies are swathed and fastened into the cradle-board, they are suspended from the tent pole or a young sapling out of doors, where they sway and swing in the gentle breeze.

Miss Piper is made of a common clay pipe, with features done with ink on the bowl of the pipe. Three colored

paper napkins are necessary for her wardrobe. Thrust the stem of the pipe through the center of two napkins, arranging them so the points do not lap over each other, but stand out well to form the skirt. Tie these securely close to the bowl of the pipe. Fold the third napkin three-corner wise and arrange the hood according to illustration and finish with a bow of ribbon around the neck. To make Miss Piper stand the small end of the pipe stem must be stuck into a large spoon or apple.

The wishbone or merry thought of fowls is susceptible of treatment in a variety of ways; the different sizes offer material for an assorted family. The wishbone of a large turkey will make a father doll and a smaller one the mother, while chicken wishbones are sufficiently varied to make a large family. The heads are made of sealing wax—black, white or yellow, according to nationality. There is in the moulding of the heads an opportunity to develop any latent artistic talent. Cut two slices of cork one-eighth of an inch thick for the flat feet. Dig a little hole in the center and fill with glue or paste, and thrust the two ends of the wishbone into them. You will have to hold them until they are set, which will require only a few minutes, and then the doll stands on its own feet and is ready to be dressed.

A coachman's cape, cap and trousers may be made of chambray. A blue dress, white apron and cap are the uniform of trained nurses, monks, Sisters of Mercy, clowns—in fact, an infinite variety of people may be made by clever fingers. The features may be inked on a flat piece of cork if sealing wax is not at hand. Birds' wishbones may be dressed as small babies and children.

The faithful thing about having people to dinner is when the door closes on the last of them.